

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for determining the noise level, as characterized by the standard deviation, of an input video sequence corrupted by unknown noise comprises the steps of: (a) spatiotemporally filtering the input video sequence, thereby producing a filtered video sequence; (b) estimating a standard deviation from the difference between the input video sequence and the filtered video sequence, thereby producing an estimated standard deviation; and (c) iterating through steps (a) and (b) using the estimated standard deviation previously obtained from step (b) to perform the filtering in step (a) until the value of the noise level approaches the unknown noise, whereby the noise level is then characterized by a finally determined standard deviation.